

ALL IN COLOUR - MAKES LEARNING A JOY

# Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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# The Water Babies

Tom, the brave little chimney-sweep, becomes a water baby. He searches the sea for other water babies, who have been told by their Fairy Queen to keep out of sight until Tom loses his rather naughty ways. When Tom is kind to a crayfish and helps it to escape from a trap he meets a water baby . . .



1. At last Tom had found a water baby. He had been searching for one for so long and had been so lonely that he could scarcely believe it. Yet there it was—a real live water baby, sitting on the white sand, very busy doing something to a little pointed rock. When it saw Tom, it looked up and smiled. "You can help me with this poor little rock," it said. "It lost its seaweed in a storm and now I must plant some more on it and make it the prettiest little rock on the sea shore."



2. When this had been done, the tide began to turn and Tom heard all the other water babies coming, laughing and singing and shouting and romping. When they reached the shore, they became very busy. "Now then," said one, "we must mend all the broken seaweed and plant all the shells again in the sand and nobody will see where the ugly storm swept in last week." The water babies come inshore after every storm to tidy up the beaches, you know.



3. Tom watched them and waited for them to notice him. When they found that he was a new water baby they hugged and kissed him, then put him in the middle and danced round him on the sand. There was nobody happier than poor Tom. They sang and shouted and the noise they made was just like rippling water. Tom felt very proud and pleased.



4. The water babies were all the little children whom the good fairies had taken, because they had been very ill or had cruel mothers and fathers, who would not look after them and see they came to no harm. "Now we must go home," they said, and they swam away under the sea, with Tom happily following behind them.



5. Do you know where the home of the water babies is? It is in a place called Saint Brandan's Isle, which stands upon pillars of rock, of many different colours. In the caves beneath the isle live the water babies and other creatures of the sea. To keep the place clean, crabs pick up all the scraps off the sand and eat them.





6. When Tom got there he found more water babies than either he, or you, could count. You might have thought that with so many friends to play with, Tom might have given up all his naughty tricks and left off teasing the poor sea-creatures, but he did not. He thought it was very funny to frighten the crabs and to make them hide in the sand with only the tips of their eyes showing.

7. Naughty little Tom was not content with spoiling the lives of the crabs. He teased the sea anemones, too. He dropped little stones into their open mouths to make them fancy that their dinner was coming, and laughed when they tossed them out, very angry and disappointed. The other children warned him, "Take care what you are doing," they said to him, "Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did is coming."



8. "Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did?" said Tom. "That's a very funny sort of name." "You must be good, or she might punish you," said the other water babies, but Tom never heeded them. He went on playing his naughty tricks, until early one Friday morning. "She's coming today," said the water babies, swimming in great excitement around Tom. "She'll be here in a few minutes and then you will meet Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did."



9. A very tremendous lady she was. When the children saw her they stood in a row, very upright indeed, just as if they were going to be examined by the inspector. She was so ugly that Tom was tempted to make faces at her, but he was a little bit too scared. Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did looked at the children and then began giving them some nice sweets.



10. She gave away sea-toffee and sea-sugarsticks and to the very best children of all she gave sea-ices, which never melt under water. Little Tom watched all these sweets being given away and hoped that his turn would come. At last it did. The lady called him up, held out something in her fingers and popped it in his mouth.



11. Lo and behold, it was a nasty hard pebble! "You are a very cruel woman," said Tom, and he began to cry. "And you a cruel boy, who puts pebbles into sea anemones' mouths to make them fancy they had caught a good dinner," she replied. "As you did to them, so I must do to you. You see, I know all about you, Tom."

Will this teach Tom not to be naughty? More of this "Water Babies" story next week.





1. Country folk have many different ways of telling what the weather is going to be like, besides listening to the radio forecast. For instance, country folk often say that if a cock crows before it goes to sleep, or in the middle of the night, there will be rain the next day.



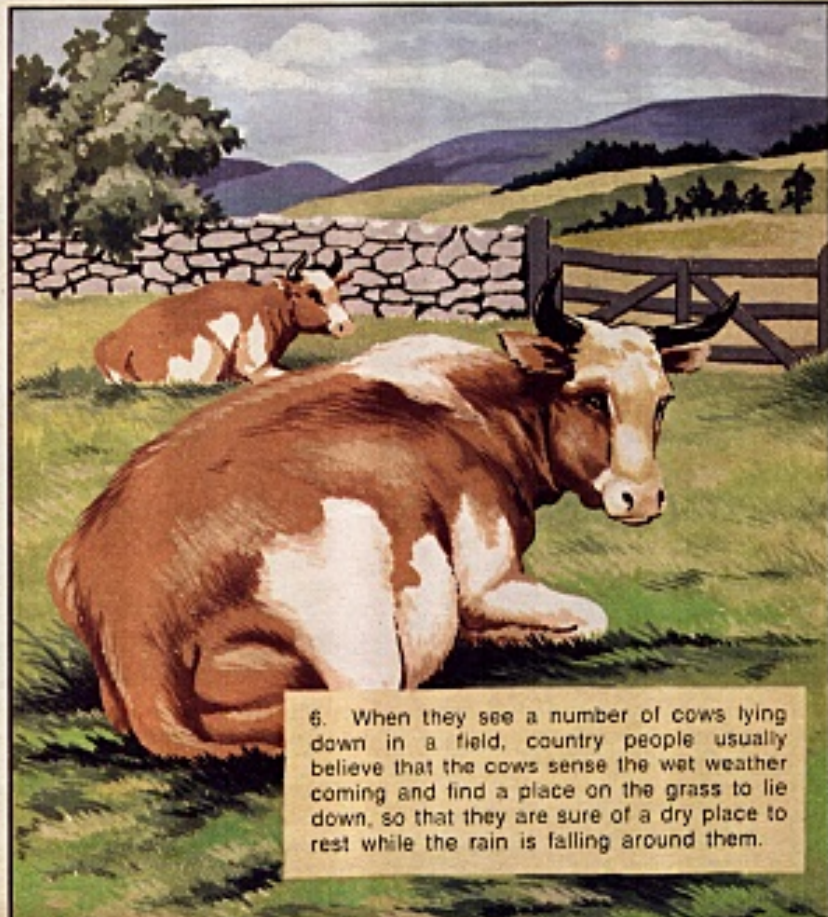
2. A common way of forecasting the weather is to get a piece of seaweed and hang it outside the door. When the weather is fine and dry, the seaweed is dry and hard, but if rain is on the way the piece of seaweed very quickly becomes moist and feels soft and limp to the touch.

Here are our "Allsorts" pages, in which we show you all sorts of different things. This week we show you :

## All Sorts



5. "Rain before seven, fine at eleven." That is another old saying and quite often it is true. One of the birds you will see in rainy weather is the mistle thrush. It is nick-named the "stormcock" because it has a habit of perching in a tall tree and singing loudly in wet weather.

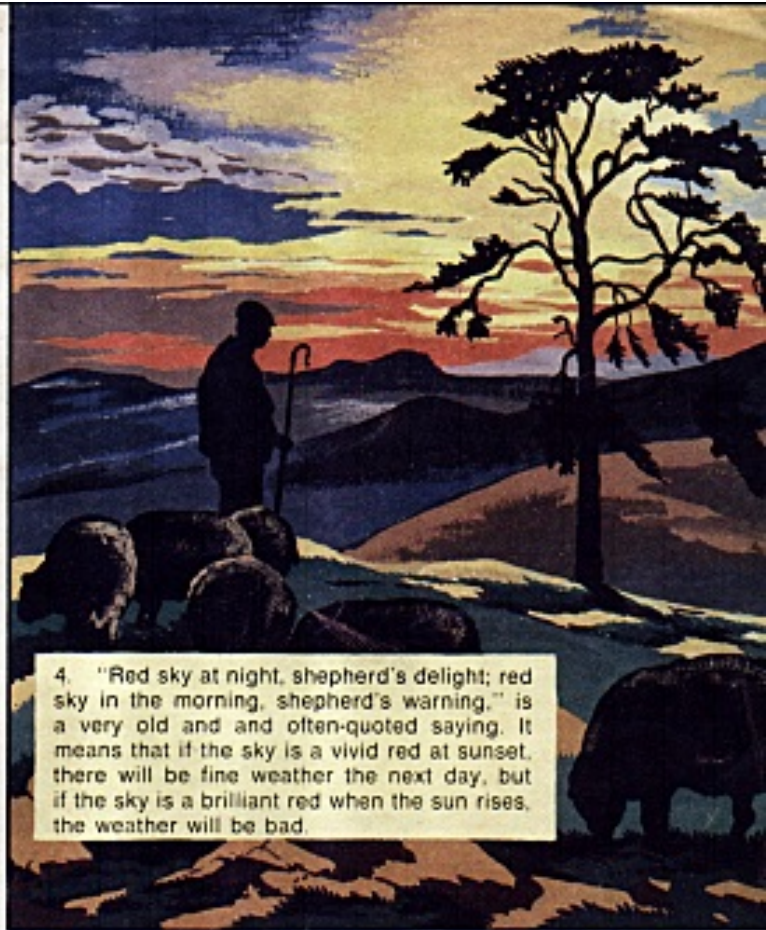


6. When they see a number of cows lying down in a field, country people usually believe that the cows sense the wet weather coming and find a place on the grass to lie down, so that they are sure of a dry place to rest while the rain is falling around them.





3. Years ago, when there were no scientists with weather stations to forecast the weather, people used to watch the movements of birds carefully. If swallows were flying high in the sky, it was a sure sign that fine weather would continue, but if they flew low over the ground, the weather would be bad.

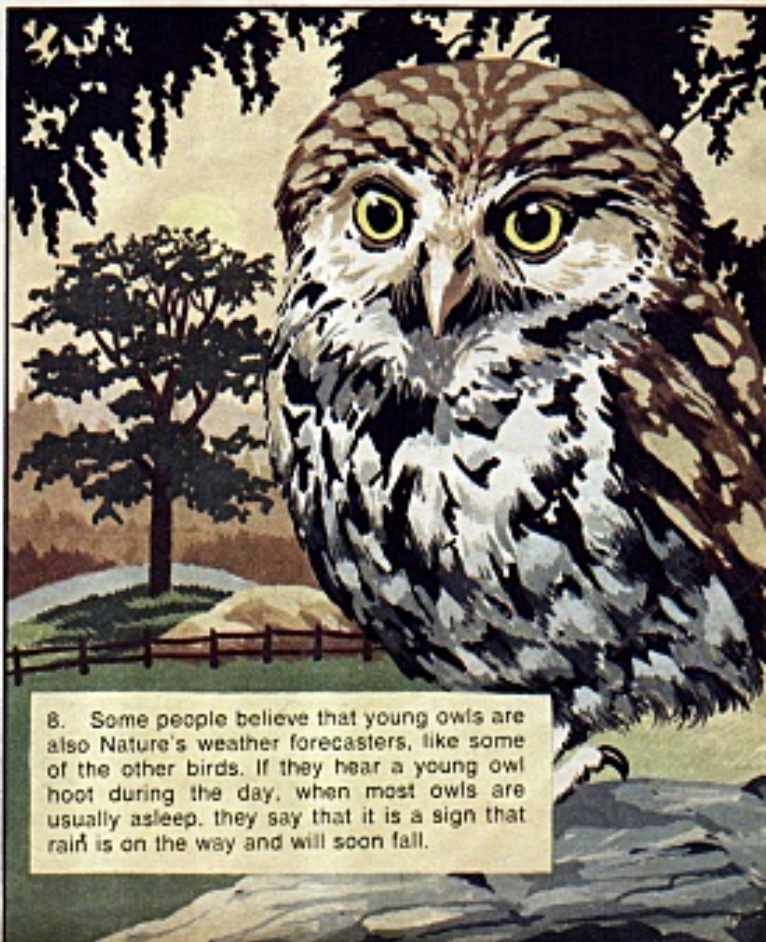


4. "Red sky at night, shepherd's delight; red sky in the morning, shepherd's warning." is a very old and often-quoted saying. It means that if the sky is a vivid red at sunset, there will be fine weather the next day, but if the sky is a brilliant red when the sun rises, the weather will be bad.

## of Weather Signs



7. "Pimpernel, pimpernel, tell me pray, will it be fine or wet today?" is another old country saying. The flowers of the Scarlet Pimpernel are good weather guides. On a fine day the scarlet flowers are wide open, but if the flowers close up, country folk say it will rain before the day is out.



8. Some people believe that young owls are also Nature's weather forecasters, like some of the other birds. If they hear a young owl hoot during the day, when most owls are usually asleep, they say that it is a sign that rain is on the way and will soon fall.





# BREX RABBIT

Miss Meadows and the water melons. By Barbara Hayes.

"HOWDY, Brer Rabbit. Don't you think we look mighty fine?"

It was Miss Meadows and the girls laughing and talking to Brer Rabbit when he went to call on them one afternoon.

"You surely do. You surely do," smiled Brer Rabbit. "And may I ask where you got those fancy smart necklaces from?"

You see, Miss Meadows and the girls were parading up and down to show off long rattling necklaces that they had hanging round their necks.

"We made the necklaces out of dried water melon seeds," said Miss Meadows.

"None of us like eating water melons very much, but we surely love making pretty things out of the seeds."

"Yes," giggled one of the girls. "I just wish we had some more seeds so that we could make some bracelets to match the necklaces. I surely wish that."

Now Brer Rabbit likes to keep in Miss Meadows' good books, as the saying goes, so he upped and said:

"Brer Fox is growing a mighty fine water melon in his back garden. I guess it would have just enough seeds in it to make you girls some real fancy bracelets."

"Oh, how lovely," said the girls.

At once Miss Meadows said, "Thank you, Brer Rabbit. Would you do me the favour of taking a note to Brer Fox?"

And, of course, Brer Rabbit said that he would be only too pleased.

"Of course I will," he said.

So Miss Meadows wrote this note:

Dear Brer Fox,

The girls and I would be mighty obliged if you would let us have your water melon seeds.

Yours truly,

Miss Meadows.



So Brer Rabbit bowed politely first to Miss Meadows and then to all the girls and kicked up his heels and was away over the hill clutching the note in his hands.

But then Brer Rabbit did a strange thing. Before going to Brer Fox's house, he called in at his own home, took an India rubber, rubbed out part of the letter and then went on to give it to Brer Fox.

"A note for me from Miss Meadows!" said Brer Fox, looking very pleased.

You see, he liked keeping in Miss Meadows' good books, too. He liked being invited to her tea parties, because she was such a good cook.

Brer Fox opened the note and read:

*Dear Brer Fox,*

*The girls and I would be mighty obliged if you would let us have your water melon.*

*Yours truly,*

*Miss Meadows.*

Now that wasn't the note that Miss Meadows wrote, was it?

Naughty Brer Rabbit had rubbed out the word "seeds", hadn't he?

Well, Brer Fox read the note and hummed and hawed while Brer Rabbit patted the huge water melon lovingly.

"Well, I don't know," said Brer Fox. "I like Miss Meadows and the girls right enough, but I was looking forward to eating this water melon myself."

And Brer Rabbit said:

"I'm sure Miss Meadows would be mighty pleased if you gave her the present she has asked for."

You notice he was careful not to say "the water melon" because he knew it really should be "water melon seeds".

So after a lot of muttering and grumbling, Brer Fox put his water melon into a wheelbarrow and ran it over to Miss Meadows' house.

Putting on his best smile he said:

"Please accept this as a present from me."

And he gave Miss Meadows the whole water melon.

"How kind of you, but . . ." began Miss Meadows.

"No buts, please," smiled Brer Fox. "Just take the melon as a present."

Then Brer Fox went home, and who should drop in on Miss Meadows next but Brer Rabbit.

"As you aren't very keen on eating water melon," said Brer Rabbit, "I thought I'd just drop in and see if I could oblige you by eating the melon for you." Brer Rabbit loved water melon.

"Why, thank you, Brer Rabbit," said Miss Meadows, but she gave Brer Rabbit a very hard look and I think she guessed what had happened.

Anyway, the very next Sunday, when she and the girls were wearing their melon seed necklaces and bracelets, they invited Brer Fox over and gave him the best tea he had ever eaten. So Brer Fox felt he had been paid back for his water melon.

But it's lucky he never found out it was really that scamp Brer Rabbit who had eaten the melon and not Miss Meadows at all.

There will be another Brer Rabbit story next week.

#### BRER RABBIT'S RIDDLES

1. When is a jelly like the sun?
2. Which man wears the biggest hat?
3. Why are twice eleven like twice ten?
4. What is still useful when broken?

#### ANSWERS:

1. When it sets. 2. The man with the biggest head. 3. Because twice eleven are twenty-two and twice ten are twenty, too! 4. An egg.





# 12 ways of crossing water



## 1. Jumping

A small stream can be crossed by jumping from one side to the other.



## 2. Wading

A fisherman crosses shallow rivers by wading through the water.



## 3. Swimming

A powerful swimmer can cross quite large stretches of water.



## 4. Vaulting

A river which is too wide to jump may be crossed by vaulting it with a pole.



## 5. Stepping Stones

Stepping stones may be used to form a bridge over a shallow river.



## 6. Flying

An aeroplane can carry people over very big stretches of sea.



## 7. Rowing

Rowing boats are used for crossing rivers and big ships for crossing seas.



## 8. Skating

In winter, when the water is frozen, it can be crossed by skating.



## 9. Bridge

Big bridges have been built over wide rivers for people to cross.



## 10. Rope Bridge

In jungle areas, bridges made of ropes or of vines tied together, are used.



## 11. Water Skiing

Many people enjoy travelling over the water on water skis, towed by a boat.



## 12. Submarine

A submarine can carry people under the water, sailing beneath ice and snow.



# Meet the Hedgehog



1. The hedgehog looks a funny little creature, with bright eyes, pointed nose and short, stumpy legs. It gets its name, hedgehog, because it lives in hedges and has a nose like a hog, which is another name for pig.

2. Its back is covered with prickly spines, as sharp as needles. When frightened by a sudden noise, or a dog coming to sniff it, the hedgehog quickly curls up into a ball, with its head and feet tucked in. It looks like a round pin-cushion and no dog dare attack it, because of the sharp prickles.



3. The hedgehog is not very active in winter, unless the weather is very mild. It prefers to spend the time sleeping in a sheltered hole in the hedge, which it lines with moss and fallen leaves to keep itself warm.



4. In spring, the hedgehog wakes up and comes out of its snug sleeping place. You may see one in the early morning, moving around, wriggling its nose as it searches for snails, slugs or beetles to eat.



5. Even though its legs are so short, the hedgehog can move around quite quickly. It can also swim across ditches and climb fences or walls. They love a saucer of milk, so if you know there is a hedgehog about, you can tempt it into your garden.



6. When the light of day gets stronger, the hedgehog usually curls up under a pile of leaves and goes to sleep. Then it is hard to see, but sometimes it can be heard, grunting and snoring in its sleep.

BASIL REYNOLDS



This is a Memory Test. When you have read the story, turn to page 16 and try to answer questions about it.

# The Great Pitch Lake

**I**N the year 1595 a little fleet of four ships anchored off the island of Trinidad. It was an expedition led by Sir Walter Raleigh, in the time of Queen Elizabeth the First.

Raleigh had left behind him his life of comfort and all his rich clothes and wealth, for a life of hardship and adventure, exploring the great Orinoco River. He planned to sail from Trinidad across to Guiana and then up the Orinoco, where he hoped he would finally find the city of El Dorado, the place where, so it was said, there was so much gold that even kitchen pots and pans were made of it. Everyone had heard of El Dorado, but no one had actually found it.

Raleigh had had a rough voyage across the Atlantic, buffeted by winds and storms, and he was glad to stop at Trinidad and overhaul his ships. He found that they needed caulking, for they were letting water in.

One of the discoveries Raleigh made in Trinidad was a great pitch lake. He and his sailors looked at it in wonder. They thought it rather ugly and a far cry from the gold they had come such a long way to discover.

The lake was like a big, hot cauldron, a hundred and fourteen acres in extent. Raleigh used the natural pitch from it to caulk the seams of his boats to make them seaworthy and watertight again.

He left the four big ships at Trinidad, to fight off any Spaniards who came to attack, then he himself, with five small rowing boats, set off to travel up the mighty Orinoco. Altogether there were a hundred men in the five little boats.

Raleigh and his men rowed many miles up the Orinoco. They had to face many dangers from cannibals and hostile Indians, alligators and poisonous fish and disease-carrying mosquitoes, but they never found El Dorado and its fabulous treasure, and Raleigh had to return home without the great wealth he had hoped for. However, had he but known it, he had found a great source of wealth in the big, ugly pitch lake of Trinidad.

Nowadays, this pitch lake provides most of the world's asphalt, which is used to make roads better than any which existed in Elizabethan times and makes travel far quicker and easier than Sir Walter Raleigh would have dreamed possible.







সত্য/কথা



# The king who had a long nose



1. There was once a King who ruled wisely and well over his kingdom, but he was always being told by his Grand Vizier that he should get married. The trouble was that the King had a very big nose, which had grown bigger and bigger as he grew up, so that when he asked a princess to marry him, she just burst out laughing.

2. Finally, the King went to ask the advice of three Wise Women. "What can I do? No princess will marry me with a nose like this," he sighed. The Wise Women applied various ointments to the nose, but they could not make it shorter. They only succeeded in turning it green and the King's nose looked even worse when it was green.



3. "This can only be the work of the Surly Witch of Shallow Wood," said the first Wise Woman at last. "She must have put a spell on you when you were a baby." The King was surprised at this, for he thought his long nose was an accident. "What shall I do?" he asked. They advised him to go and see the witch at once.

4. The King found the Surly Witch in a little house in Shallow Wood. "Well, what do you want, you with the green nose?" she snapped. The King asked politely why she had put a spell on him. "Because your father did not invite me to your christening," she said. "And I'd just rid his palace of a plague of bats."





5. "I'm sorry you weren't invited," said the young king. "But I'll certainly see that you are invited to my wedding." Now the Surly Witch had always wanted to be invited to a party at the palace so that she could boast to all the other witches about it, and she smiled for the first time in years.

6. "And when will the wedding take place?" she asked. The King sighed. "That's the trouble," he said. "No one will marry me because they're all so busy laughing at my long nose that they can't be bothered to find out what I'm really like. I may never be able to find a bride at all and never have a wedding."



7. "We'll see about that," snapped the Witch, who saw her dreams of going to a royal wedding fading fast. With one snap of her fingers she broke the spell she had placed on the prince when he was in his cradle. "Now see if they laugh at you, my handsome," she cackled. And of course, they didn't, for now he was handsome.

8. In no time at all he found a lovely princess who agreed to marry him, although she liked him so much that she would have married him, nose or no nose. But as the Surly Witch pointed out at the wedding, she would never have known she liked him, if he hadn't made her laugh so much when he had a long nose.





## Beautiful Paintings

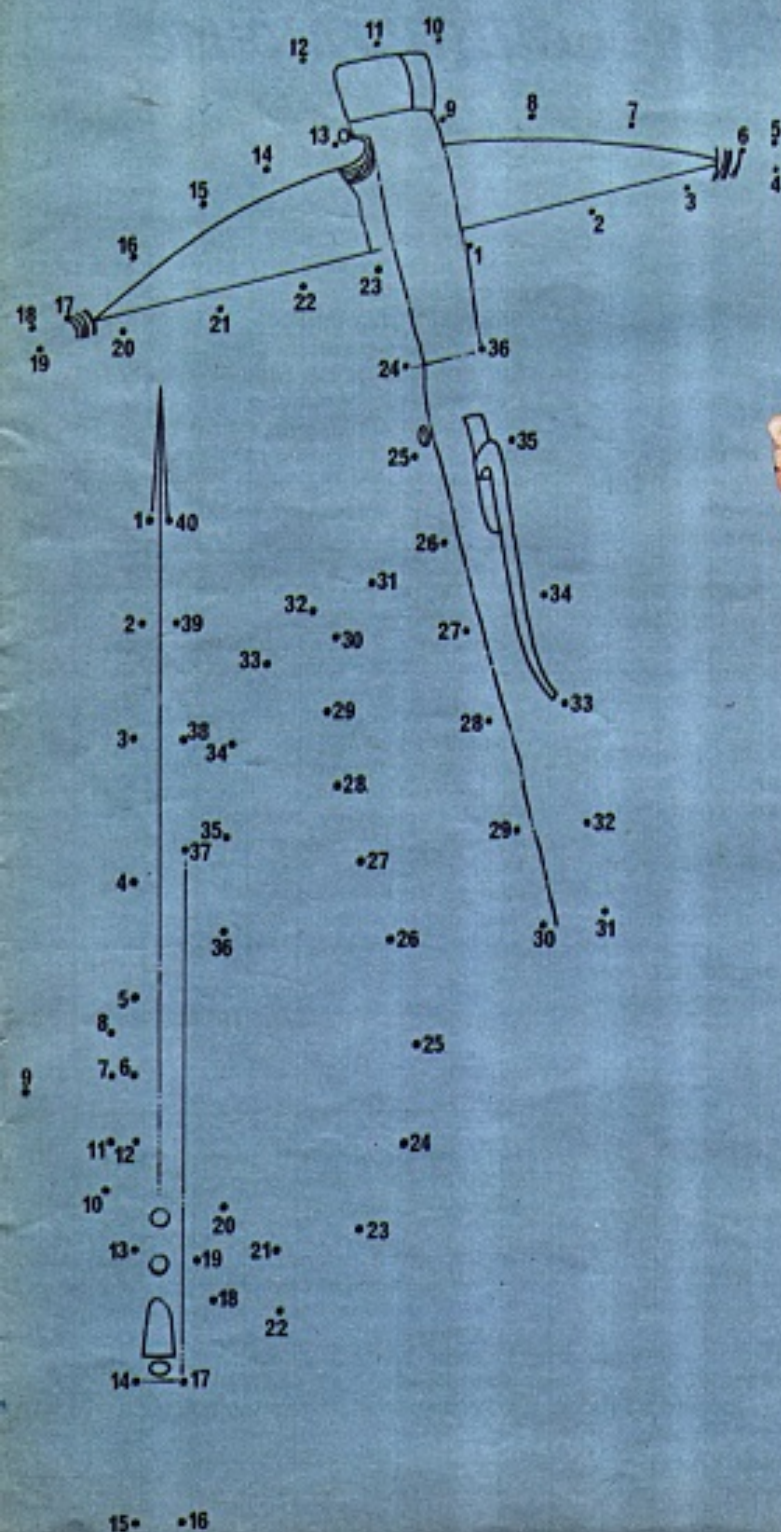
Here is another lovely picture for you to look at and cut out to add to your collection from *Once Upon A Time*. The artist, K. E. Olszenski, has painted it perfectly, catching the movement of the waterfowl across the rippling water. (© Franz Hanfstaengl, Munich)



# Saint Joan of Arc

Saint Joan was born in 1412 and was the brave French girl who led her people to drive the English out of Orleans, in France. When she was only 19 years old she was burned to death as a witch.

To draw two weapons used in war in Joan of Arc's time, join the dots of the puzzle pictures neatly from 1 to 36 and from 1 to 40. They are a crossbow and the top part of a halberd.







## *The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse*

**The treasure of Timble's Manor. By Barbara Hayes.**

**N**OW not far from where Winifred, the country mouse, lived there was a very big old manor house called Timble's Manor.

The Timble family had lived there for hundreds of years, and of course the place was full of old-fashioned furniture and paintings and vases.

And as well as that, there were lots of stories about Timble's Manor.

It was said that in the old days, when the Roundheads were fighting the King, the Lord Timble who was living in Timble's Manor at the time, hid a store of gold coins. Then when the war was over he forgot where he had hidden them.

The story went on that the gold coins were still lying about somewhere in Timble's Manor, if anyone could be clever enough to find them.

Well, it happened one summer that the latest Lord Timble got married and his wife, the new Lady Timble, didn't like all the old-fashioned furniture that filled Timble Manor.

"Let's sell it all and buy some nice modern things," she said.

So that is what happened.

Everyone far and wide was told about the sale that was to be held at Timble's Manor and, of course, when Stephanie, the town mouse, heard about it, she felt she must just go down to see if she could pick up anything nice.

She wrote to her cousin, Winifred, the country mouse, and said: "As you live near Timble's Manor, let us go to the sale together."

So they did.

You can see them in the picture, Winifred in her spotted skirt and Stephanie in her fine towny clothes.

And can you see another mouse near the front right hand side of the picture, who looks as if he is about to do something very, very naughty?

It is Rex the Wrecker—and he is just going to smash that lovely vase with a hammer.

What a naughty boy.

Do you remember Rex the Wrecker?

He lives near Winifred and he is always breaking, or kicking, or smashing, or dropping something.

Do you know anyone like that?

Anyway, naughty Rexie had heard the stories about the hidden gold coins of Timble's Manor, and he had thought to himself:

"I wonder if the gold coins are hidden in any of the old furniture and things that are being sold at the sale?"

So he slipped into the Manor, searched all through the furniture, ripped open the backs of some of the pictures and was just going to smash open the vase, when Stephanie turned round and saw him.

"Stop that, you wretched little wrecker!" she shouted. "Help me, everyone, to catch Rex or he will break everything in the house."

So everyone jumped up and started to chase naughty Rexie.

Up and down, in and out he ran, until at last he came to the end of a passage and there was no way out.

THUMP!

Rexie crashed against the wall, just to see if he could knock it down and escape that way.

And to his surprise, and to the surprise of everyone who was following him, the wall slid back to show a secret hiding place—and in the hiding place was a box and in the box was—can you guess?—the gold coins, of course.

Rexie was thrilled.

Stephanie and Winifred were thrilled. Lord and Lady Timble were thrilled.

At once they invited everyone to come to a lovely free tea.

They gave Rexie and Stephanie a gold

coin each and said they could choose a present from the things that were being sold in the sale.

Stephanie was thrilled.

She chose a beautiful silver teapot.

But can you guess what Rexie chose?

He chose the hammer!

He said it would help him if he found anything else he wanted to wreck.

**There will be another merry story about the mice next week.**

### **YOUR EDITOR'S LETTER**

Dear Boys and Girls,

How are you all enjoying yourselves? I hope you are getting on well at school and have made many new friends there. Sometimes I get letters from teachers who tell us that they have "Once Upon A Time" in the class-room and find it useful for reading-lessons. This week, on pages 4 and 5 you will find some very interesting things about weather signs. When you get up in the morning you will perhaps be able to use one or two of them and be able to say what the day's weather will be like. Try it and see how near you can get.

Your friend,  
**The Editor.**

**Here are the questions about the story of Sir Walter Raleigh on page 10. Can you answer them all?**

1. Off which island did Sir Walter Raleigh's ships anchor?
2. What did they use for caulking their ships?
3. What river did Sir Walter set out to explore?
4. What city was he hoping to find?







# Rose White and Rose Red



1. You will remember that last week Rose White and Rose Red had a lot of trouble with a very ungrateful little dwarf, whom they twice helped. Now, it seemed, the little man needed help for the third time, for as he marched along with his sack slung over his shoulder, a great eagle came swooping down on him from the sky.



2. The eagle snatched up the dwarf and started to fly off with a loud, joyful squawk. But the two sisters were quick to act. They ran forward and just managed to grab the little man's legs. Then started a tug-of-war. "Pull hard!" panted Rose Red. The eagle pulled hard, too, but the girls won the tug-of-war.



3. "How lucky for you that we were around," Rose White said to the little man. But he only shook his fist at them as he picked up his sack. "Lucky?" he said. "Do you call it lucky to be pulled and tugged like that?" "If you won't thank us, you might at least tell us what you have inside that sack," said Rose Red.



4. "It's none of your business!" snapped the dwarf. "You only want to rob me." But then, as he snatched up the sack, it tore at the bottom—and out fell a large collection of diamonds. "Goodness me," gasped Rose White. "Where did you get all those?" Before the dwarf could answer, there came a loud and angry roar.





5. The big brown bear, which the girls had sheltered during the winter, bounded up and with one sweep of its paw it gave the dwarf such a box on the ear that the little man went right up into the air and sailed away over the rocks. Rose White and Rose Red saw this suddenly happen and felt rather frightened.



6. Drawing back a little, they huddled together for safety. But the big brown bear only gave a deep chuckle. "You have nothing to fear from me," he said. "For many months I have been looking for that bad, little dwarf. He stole all my jewels and then changed me into a brown bear." "Changed you?" asked Rose White.



7. "Yes, indeed," said the bear. "He put a spell on me and the only way I could get rid of it was to give him a box on the ear, and make him disappear." Then a wonderful thing happened. The big brown bear suddenly lost its skin and became a Prince.

8. Later, the Prince fell in love with Rose White and took her and her sister and mother back to his great castle for a wedding. There, Rose Red met the Prince's brother and they, too, were married and went to live in a castle of their own, very happily.

Startling in Once Upon A Time next week: The lovely story of "The Tin Soldier".



# FAMOUS NAMES

Interesting facts about people, places and things in our world.



1. **Count Ferdinand Von Zeppelin.** A retired German army officer, who built the long, cigar-shaped airships which were named Zeppelins after him. The first one to fly was 420 feet long and reached a speed of 20 miles an hour. Later, bigger Zeppelins were built to fly across the Atlantic Ocean until 1938.



2. **The Battle of Trafalgar.** On October 21st, 1805, a British naval fleet of 27 battleships and 4 frigates fought against a French-Spanish fleet of 33 battleships and 5 frigates off Cape Trafalgar on the southern coast of Spain. The British fleet won the battle, in which their leader, Admiral Nelson, was killed.



3. **The Boers.** Many years ago, people of Dutch descent began to travel to South Africa to settle there. The first of them came from Java in 1652. They made long, tiring journeys, or treks, and fought a war against British settlers in 1881.



4. **Marconi.** The Italian inventor of radio, which was first called wireless because messages could be sent from place to place without the use of telephone wires. In 1901 he sent a signal from Poldu, in Cornwall, right across the Atlantic Ocean.